



A *7/24/05*

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

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First Inventor	YONG
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Examiner	Kang, Paul H.
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 17, 2004, reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully solicited for the reasons which follow.

Claims 1-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being "unpatentable over" the Nielsen and Knowles references. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed in the last response, while the two references are broadly relevant to the present invention in that they relate to e-mail messaging, the references address different problems from that addressed by the present invention and, moreover, the problems addressed and solved by the two patents are different from each other.

Considering the foregoing in more detail, in common with the cited references, the present invention deals with problems presented by the high volumes of electronic mail messages normally received by an electronic mailbox user. However, the present invention is particularly concerned with situations wherein electronic messages build up and form a large backlog such that, as the user works through these messages he or she may reply to one of them, only to find out that a later, as yet unnoticed message from the original sender, or from another recipient of the original message, has made it unnecessary to reply. As pointed out in the previous response, in the example described in the introductory portion of this application, an electronic mail user who has